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General Assembly

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Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations
New York, 24 February-21 March 2014

Draft report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on the 2014 substantive session

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohamed Sarwat **Selim** (Egypt)

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 67/301, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/67/19), decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field, and requested the Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations held its 2014 session at United Nations Headquarters from 24 February to 21 March 2014 and held five plenary meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. At the 234th (opening) meeting, on 24 February, the Vice-President of the General Assembly (on behalf of the President), the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support made statements.

4. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support provided support to the Committee on substantive issues, while the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the technical secretariat of the Committee.

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B. Election of officers

5. At its 234th meeting, the Committee elected its officers by acclamation, as follows:

Chair:
Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairs:
Mr. Mateo Estreme (Argentina)
Mr. Michael Grant (Canada)
Mr. Hiroshi Ishikawa (Japan)
Mr. Jacek Stochel (Poland)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Mohamed Sarwat Selim (Egypt)

C. Agenda

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.121/2014/L.1), which read:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. General debate.
6. In-session briefings.
7. Consideration of the draft report by the Working Group of the Whole.
8. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.
9. Other matters.

7. The Committee also approved its draft programme of work (A/AC.121/2014/L.2/Rev.1).

D. Organization of work

8. Also at its 234th meeting, the Committee decided to establish a working group of the whole, to be chaired by Michael Grant (Canada), to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee agreed, without prejudice to any arrangements that might be agreed upon for future sessions, that certain sections and subsections contained in the report on the 2012 substantive session (A/66/19) would be negotiated in the Working Group of the Whole and that those sections and subsections that were not being negotiated in 2014 would be technically updated.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision on its working methods (A/AC.121/2014/L.3) (see annex I).

11. The composition of the Committee at its 2014 session is contained in annex II to the present report. The list of documents for the session is contained in A/AC.121/2014/INF/2, and the list of participants at the session is contained in A/AC.121/2014/INF/4.

E. Proceedings of the Committee

12. At its 234th to 237th meetings, on 24 and 25 February, the Committee held a general debate on a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Thailand (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, then in a national capacity), the European Union (also on behalf of the candidate countries Turkey, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine and Georgia, which aligned themselves with the statement), India, Fiji, Brazil, Switzerland, Indonesia, Turkey, China, Argentina, Guatemala, Pakistan, Tunisia, the Russian Federation, the United Republic of Tanzania, Japan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Mexico, Canada (on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand), Nepal, Uganda, Norway, Lebanon, Uruguay, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Rwanda, Senegal, the United States of America, Algeria, Malaysia, Ukraine, Kenya, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Haiti, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Morocco, the Sudan, the Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, Mongolia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Georgia, Cuba, Nigeria, Eritrea and Jordan.

13. On 26 February, a briefing was presented to the Working Group of the Whole on operational field issues.

14. The Working Group of the Whole and its five subworking groups met from 10 to 21 March and concluded their work on draft recommendations.

III. Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group

15. At its 238th meeting, on 21 March, the Committee considered the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole and decided to include its recommendations in the present report (see paras. 17-) for consideration by the General Assembly.

IV. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted its draft report to the General Assembly as introduced by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

V. Proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Committee

17. [to be inserted]

Annex I

Working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, pursuant to paragraph 13 of the report on its 2013 session[1] and as agreed at the meetings of the intersessional group of Friends of the Chair held on 6, 13 and 21 November 2013, and recalling the decision on working methods adopted at its 2012 session:[2]

(a) Decides:

(i) On standardization and stabilization:

a. That its 2012 decision to standardize sections of the report of the Special Committee that do not change from year to year (i.e., chap. V, sects. A to C) will be maintained;[3]

b. That an annual stabilization process will be held in advance of the annual session of the Special Committee, with a view to reducing further the number of topics to be negotiated in a given year;

(ii) On streamlining:

a. That its 2012 decision to encourage negotiating partners to streamline similar inputs to the draft report of the Special Committee will be maintained;[4]

b. That the draft compilation text of the report will be circulated by the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole as far in advance of the negotiating part of the annual session as possible, to ensure sufficient time for negotiating partners to streamline submissions;

(iii) On subworking groups:

a. That its 2012 decision to establish an upper limit of eight subworking groups will be maintained;[5]

b. Furthermore, that the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole will aim to establish the minimum number of subworking groups required each year, based on the text submitted by members of the Special Committee;

(iv) On format: to revert to the format used for the reports on the 2012 and previous sessions of the Special Committee;

(b) Also decides to keep its working methods under review, with a view to formulating further recommendations, as appropriate;

(c) Further decides that the present decision will be included as an annex to the report of the Special Committee on its 2014 session.

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[1] A/67/19.
[2] A/66/19, annex I.
[3] Ibid., para. (a) (i).
[4] Ibid., para. (a) (ii).
[5] Ibid., para. (a) (iii).

Annex II

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

Members: The Special Committee currently consists of the following 148 members: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Latvia, Myanmar, Panama, South Sudan, Holy See, African Union, European Union, International Criminal Court, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Sovereign Military Order of Malta.